

"The JK Rowling legend began with a delightful children's book about an orphan boy wizard with a lightning-shaped scar, a boy with a magical destiny, a destiny shared by his creator.

JK Rowling is the first self-made billionaire author in history, selling more than 400 million books, captivating readers in 69 languages and 200 countries around the world. Harry's final chapter *The Deathly Hallows*, is the fastest-selling book of all time. No wonder she's credited with doing more for literacy than anyone else on the planet.

Her empire spans movies, merchandise... even an amusement park. The Harry Potter blockbusters are the highest growth in movie franchise in Hollywood history, making it \$5.3 billion ... and still counting...

OW: So, this is the first time we've met

JKR: Yes... it is...

OW: And my producers tell me your real name is Jo. All those times I thought you were J...K... JK ...

JKR: (laughs)... Yeah... Well, it's because my British publisher, when the first book came out, thought "this is a book that will appeal to boys" but they didn't want the boys to know a woman had written it. So they said to me "Could we use your initials?" and I said "fine, I only have one initial." I don't have a middle name. So I took my favourite grandmother's name, Kathleen.

OW: Kathleen?

JKR: Kathleen Yeah...

OW: ... Joanne Kathleen... and fooled the boys for a while.

JKR: Yeah, not for too long...

OW: Not for too long...

JKR: Yeah, because I started to get my picture in the press and no one could pretend I was a man any more.

OW: Yes, and I don't think the boys have minded.

JKR: (laughs)... No, it hasn't held me back! It has clearly not held me back!

OW: Not a bit! ... When we came... we just arrived yesterday. It was beautiful... Scotland is so beautiful!

JKR: It's stunning, yes... it's stunning, it is...

OW: And the green is greener than any green I've ever seen...

JKR: It's gorgeous...

OW: ... other than Ireland... So I can understand why you love being here. Is there something about being here... in this particular hotel... where we are that you thought would be particularly stimulating to your creative process and that's why you wanted to come here... to finish...

JKR: Well, it turned out to be stimulating. As I was finishing *Deathly Hallows*, there came a day where the window cleaner came, the kids were at home... the dogs were barking ... and I could not work! And this light bulb went on in my head and I thought "I can throw money on this problem. I can now solve this problem. For years and years and years, I just would go to a café and sit in a different kind of noise and work... I thought "I can go to a quiet place!" So I came to this hotel because it's a beautiful hotel but I didn't intend to stay here. But it was so nice to me here... and I think writers can be a little bit

superstitious. So the first days writing went well so I kept coming back to this hotel and I ended up finishing the last of the Harry Potter books in this hotel."